

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 809

By Gillespie

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the University of Memphis Board of Trustees upon its receipt of the 2022 John W. Nason Award.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this General Assembly to recognize those esteemed leaders who govern Tennessee's universities with the utmost integrity and ability; and

WHEREAS, one such group of leaders is the University of Memphis (UM) Board of Trustees, which was recently selected to receive the 2022 John W. Nason Award for Board Leadership by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB); and

WHEREAS, AGB, the premier organization representing higher education governing boards, established the Nason Award in 1992; the award is presented to higher education governing boards that demonstrate exceptional leadership and initiative; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 2017, the UM Board of Trustees has placed ensuring student success for all students at the forefront of its responsibilities; with each decision at every level, the board continues to prove its commitment to universal student success; and

WHEREAS, through policies and programs designed to limit student debt and innovate campus partnerships that provide financial support and real-world job experiences, the board has played a key role in increasing graduation rates, fostering a sense of belonging and support on campus, and promoting economic opportunity for students and the surrounding Memphis region; and

WHEREAS, the board has led UM into a new, exciting era, as the university was recently classified as an R1 institution by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher

Education; this top-tier research status solidified UM as one of two flagship institutions in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, currently under the astute leadership of Dr. David Rudd, university president, the UM Board of Trustees has elevated the stature of the university in all areas, all while maintaining a stalwart commitment to justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout campus and in the board room; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that this esteemed body be recognized at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend and congratulate the University of Memphis Board of Trustees upon its receipt of the 2022 John W. Nason Award, extending our gratitude for the board's commitment to excellence and many contributions to the University of Memphis and this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.